

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akira KAMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3748

Application No.: 10/606,375

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Filed: June 26, 2003

Docket No.: 115169

For: CATALYST DEGRADATION DETERMINING METHOD

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the August 23, 2004 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the species of Fig. 15 (mode 6). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 read on the Species of Fig. 15.

While the Election of Species Requirement asserted that claims 3-5 read on the Species of Fig. 15, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 read on the Species of Fig. 15. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims read on the corresponding Species as follows: claims 1 and 2 read on the Species of Fig. 12; claims 3-5 read on the Species of Fig. 13; claims 6 and 7 read on the Species of Fig. 14; and, as indicated above, claims 8-10 read on the Species of Fig. 15.

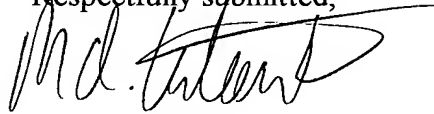
Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that a search and examination of the entire application could be

performed without serious burden. See MPEP §803, which states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." It is respectfully submitted that the above policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, Applicants request the Examiner to consider the information submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed with this application on June 26, 2003. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, for some reason, the Information Disclosure Statement is not present in the Patent Office file.

Withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement, and examination of all pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MAC/ccs

Date: September 16, 2004

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